

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 22 are amended.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Bollinger to Applicant's representative during the March 9, 2005 personal interview. The personal interview is summarized below and thus constitutes Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant also appreciates the allowance of claims 32 and 33 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 6 and 7. For the reasons discussed below, all of claims 1-33 are allowable.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-24 and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Miura, U.S. Patent No. 5,927,707. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Miura fails to disclose a sheet guiding system, wherein a second movable guide member is movable relative to a fixed guide member such that the fixed guide member and a first movable guide member, and not the second movable guide member, are used to sandwich and guide sheets that have a first dimension in a second direction equal to or larger than a predetermined dimension, as recited in claims 1 and 22.

As agreed during the personal interview, Miura fails to disclose the sheet guiding system of claims 1 and 22 because both of the guide members 607, 607A are always used to sandwich and guide sheets. Accordingly, Miura fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1 and 22.

Miura also fails to disclose a sheet guiding system, wherein a second movable guide member and a fixed guide member are provided on one side and when a first movable guide member and the second movable guide member are away from each other in a second direction by a distance equal to or larger than a predetermined distance, the fixed guide

member is closer than the second movable guide member to the first movable guide member, as recited in claim 29.

As agreed during the personal interview, the side section 601 of Miura (which is on the same side as the guide member 607) is never closer than the guide member 607 to the guide member 607A. Similarly, the side section 602 (which is on the same side as the guide member 607A) is never closer than the guide member 607A to the guide member 607. Accordingly, Miura fails to disclose a fixed guide member that is closer than a second movable guide member to a first movable guide member, as recited in claim 29.

In view of the foregoing, Miura fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1, 22 and 29, as well as the additional features recited in the dependent claims. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

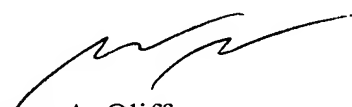
Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Miura in view of Tsutsui et al. (Tsutsui), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0174194. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tsutsui fails to overcome the deficiencies of Miura because Tsutsui fails to disclose a sheet cassette. Accordingly, Miura and Tsutsui fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 22 as well as the additional features recited in dependent claims 25 and 26. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-33 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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